

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 11132 181027Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 INSE-00 ISO-00 EA-10 IO-13 /029 W  
-----055507 181031Z /23

P R 180954Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3208  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11132

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: POSSIBLE MACAU TRANSIT CENTER

REF: A) SINGAPORE 1726 (NOTAL) B) HONG KONG 4736  
C) 77 HONG KONG 15185 (NOTAL) D) 77 STATE 287954 (NOTAL)  
E) 77 HONG KONG 14702 (NOTAL) F) 77 STATE 281094 (NOTAL)  
G) 77 HONG KONG 14154

1. RECENT TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC AND NEWS REPORTS INDICATE THAT SHIPS ARE CONTINUING TO IGNORE REFUGEES IN DISTRESS ON THE HIGH SEAS. THE DEPARTMENT HAD EARLIER INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO GIVE SECONDARY PRIORITY TO THE POSSIBLE USE OF MACAU AS A TEMPORARY HAVEN FOR INDO-CHINESE BOAT REFUGEES, SO THAT LEE KUAN YEW'S OFFER OF THE SINGAPORE ISLAND HAVEN WOULD NOT GO STALE FOR LACK OF PROGRESS (REF D). THE SINGAPORE PROSPECT SEEMS AS FAR OFF AS ALWAYS AND, ADDITIONALLY, WOULD APPARENTLY NOT LEND ITSELF TO ACCOMMODATING LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES SHOULD IT EVER BECOME ESTABLISHED.

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2. PERHAPS NOW IS THE MOMENT TO FURTHER EXPLORE THE MACAU POSSIBILITY. IT OFFERS THE RARE PHENOMENON IN EAST ASIA OF A GOVERNMENT IN AUTHORITY THAT IS WILLING TO HELP INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES (REF C AND G). A TRANSIT CENTER IN MACAU MIGHT POSSIBLY DETER WORLD VISION FROM ITS INSUFFICIENTLY THOUGHT OUT SCHEME FOR FLOATING A HOSPITAL AND REPAIR SHIP

IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA (REF A), HELP COPE WITH THE DECREAS-  
ING CAPACITY IN HONG KONG FOR ACCOMMODATING REFUGEES (REF  
B), AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, ENCOURAGE SHIPS AT SEA TO BE LESS  
CAVALIER ABOUT PASSING UP REFUGEES IN DISTRESS.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO11132  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780165-0696  
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**Reference:** 78 SINGAPORE 1726, 78 HONG KONG 4736  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014